

REMARKS

Claim rejections - 35 USC § 101

Applicant has amended Claim 20 herein to state that the computer readable media recited therein is "non-transitory". Applicant respectfully submits that such claim as amended recites statutory subject matter and thus traverses the rejection under 35 USC § 101.

Claim rejections - 35 USC § 103

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is non-obvious over US 5,457,480 (White), and in view of the other cited references.

Applicant's claimed invention is directed to allowing a user to enter both graphical location data and alphanumerical data all through the same device. Such a device tends to be advantageous over the prior art in that it can allow a user to keep his or her hand on the device to enter more information, without for example, switching from a mouse to a keyboard and vice versa.

These aspects of the claimed invention are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art. The teachings of White, as noted by the Examiner, lacks any discussion of alphanumeric data entry. Rather, White only teaches a numeric keypad. In particular, at col. 1, l. 50-58, the inventor there stated that his object of the invention is complementing a mouse with just a numerical data entry keypad. There is no teaching or suggestion that alphanumeric (i.e., text) entry be permitted. A person of skill might view the keypad of White as potentially advantageous for and appealing to professionals, such as for example when such a user is performing tasks such as CAD/CAM, bookkeeping, audit, accounting. However, for other users, such as those that tend to only perform non-professional everyday computing, such as emailing or exploring the Internet, they may tend to be better served by and may tend to be happy with full-fledged alphanumerical text-entry such as on the QWERTY keypad, being quite content with the horizontal digit top row for entering sparsely appearing numeral(s).

Therefore, there is no motivation to modify White to arrive at Applicant's claimed invention.

Furthermore, even if one combines White with US 6,137,479 (Olsen), that would still not teach Applicant's claimed invention. Olsen discloses a pointing device with positional selection, which has keys thereon. However, unlike the claimed invention for entering alphanumeric data to a computer, the keys on Olsen are for performing functions on the pointing device (or mouse) itself. See for example, Olsen, col. 2, l. 1; col. 2, l. 29-31; col. 3, l. 6-8; col. 4, l. 23-63; col. 5, l. 33-41 and 55-63; col. 6-7, l. 14-20, 65-7 and 65-67. The keys of Olsen are used for inputting data to the mouse; and not entry of alphanumeric data to a computer as recited in Applicant's claims. Text entry directly from the device to the computer is not suggested, enabled or disclosed by Olsen, and thus a White-Olsen combination would still remain just a positional/numerical entry system to a computer, which can be achieved by virtue of White alone. The combination of White and Olsen still does not teach Applicant's claimed invention having alphanumeric data entry on the device.

The foregoing addresses the obviousness rejection of claim 1, and since all other pending claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are non-obvious over the cited prior art. However, for completeness, Applicant further provides some comment on the other cited references of US 6,348,878 (Tsubai) and US 6,703,963 (Higginson), which were cited against dependent claims of the application. Tsubai and Higginson both disclose modified keyboards with reduced key layouts. These references discuss that it would be beneficial to have such reduced key layouts, for example, at col. 2, l. 19-21 cited by Examiner that "[i]t would be a new and useful improvement of the prior art for a keyboard layout to be developed that is easy to learn and minimizes finger movement and redundant keystrokes". Indeed, such a statement might tend to be indicative of a long felt need in the industry, but not any "motivation" to modify the prior art to arrive at Applicant's particular invention. In any event, neither Tsubai nor Higginson teach or suggest a device for allowing a user to enter both graphical location data and alphanumeric data all through the same device, as per the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is non-obvious over the prior art. It tends to liberate a user from always having to tap text on the computer keyboard (such as in the main cited reference of White), and it tends to be a useful and comfortable complement or alternative other entry devices disclosed in the prior art.


CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that it has fully responded to the Examiner's concerns, and that the application is in condition for immediate allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in any fee required for this response, including any petition fee, to Deposit Account No. 50-2651.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 23, 2011


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